



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION  
P.O. BOX 80  
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39181-0080

JAN 25 2019

Region 4 - RA's Office

FEB 4 2019



Received

Executive Office

Ms. Mary S. Walker  
Acting Regional Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency Region 4  
Sam Nunn Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Ms. Walker,

I am writing in follow-up to my September 4, 2018, meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4 team regarding the 2008 EPA Clean Water Act 404 (c) veto of the Yazoo Backwater Area Pump Project, Issaquena County, Mississippi. My interest is in additional agency dialogue as there remains a need for a balanced solution, including structural measures, to reduce the risk of flooding in the Yazoo backwater area.

There continues to be significant flooding along the lower Mississippi River and the backwater area over the last 10 years, including the 2011 Mississippi River flood, which was the highest the Mississippi River Valley has experienced in modern times. More recently, in the spring of 2018, the Yazoo backwater area experienced the highest flood stage since 1983, with more than 440,000 acres flooded. Between 2008 and 2018, approximately \$377 million in damages has occurred as a result of the continued flooding.

Because of the continued flooding of the Yazoo backwater area, stakeholder interest for a solution continues to be high, as evidenced by repeated comments during the Mississippi River Commission's annual public meetings. Additional wetlands data and analyses have been developed since the 404(c) veto, which indicate that precipitation plays a greater role than backwater flooding in sustaining wetland hydrology in the Yazoo backwater area, and that the magnitude of potential adverse effects to wetland resources may be lower than indicated in 2008.

The goal of additional dialogue would be two-fold. First, it is vital that we have a complete and common understanding of stakeholder interest, continued significant flooding in the Yazoo backwater area and additional scientific information available since the issuance of the 404(c) veto of the Clean Water Act in 2008. And secondly, based on the outcome of our dialogue, develop a road map which defines an approach to evaluate a balanced solution to addressing continued flooding and environmental sustainability in the Yazoo backwater area.

I look forward to a mutually productive dialogue. My point of contact is Mr. Charles Camillo at (601) 634-7023 or [charles.a.camillo@usace.army.mil](mailto:charles.a.camillo@usace.army.mil).

*Looking Forward  
to opening an  
excellent dialogue!*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard G. Kaiser". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Richard G. Kaiser  
Major General, U.S. Army  
Commander